



# 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting

December 2, 2014

## West Steps of the California State Capitol



Kimie Metcalf (age 8)

The Department of Developmental Services congratulates **Kimie Metcalf (Age 8)** of Chino, CA, who has been selected by Inland Regional Center (IRC) to help the Governor and First Lady light the tree at this year's Annual Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Kimie represents over 270,000 persons with developmental disabilities who receive services and supports from the State developmental centers and twenty-one nonprofit regional centers.

Kimie was born on July 13, 2005. She arrived 13 weeks early, weighing only 2 lbs., 7 ounces. She has faced a number of obstacles ever since, involving many of the challenges a premature baby faces including a hole in her heart, a grade III brain bleed, blindness in her right eye and a diagnosis of total body involvement cerebral palsy. As if the early obstacles weren't enough, at the age of 4, she was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer.

Yet rather than being defined by the challenges she has faced, Kimie has led a life that has been defined by her triumphs. Kimie is a little ambassador of hope for people diagnosed with blood cancer. Since 2012, she has been honored with many awards including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Youth Ambassador Award, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) Hometown Hero Award, the LLS Girl of the Year Award, and was a spokesperson for the LLUCH Barret Jackson Charity Car Auction, raising a record \$700,000.

Most recently she was granted the 2014 LLS Woman of the Year award by raising \$75,000 in ten weeks to fund research for pediatric blood cancer.

Through all the highs and lows, Kimie has worn her signature ear-to-ear grin and has always met each day with joy and optimism. Kimie has benefited from the support of a loving family as well as from the support and services from IRC, which has offices in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Kimie and her family received services through the Early Start Program at IRC due to her premature birth. Early Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act—IDEA, is for children and their families from birth to age three. Early Start services are designed to support and enhance the family's ability to meet the special developmental needs of their infant or toddler with disabilities. The earlier intervention is started, the greater the quality of life is for children with disabilities and their families. In addition to Early Start, IRC provides services through the lifespan for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act. Kimie continues to benefit from services through IRC due to her diagnosis of cerebral palsy.



Kristine & Kimie Metcalf



Metcalf Family: Left to Right - Kristine (mom), Kimie (Tree Lighter), Reese (brother, age 10), Craig (dad)

Kimie is a third grader at Eagle Canyon Elementary in Chino, CA. She loves to go camping with her family, ride motorcycles, and play soccer. Kimie will be accompanied to the tree lighting by her mother, Kristine.

Family: Craig and Kristine Metcalf (Parents), Kimie Metcalf (Tree Lighter), Reese Metcalf (Kimie's Brother)

IRC: Executive Director, Carol Fitzgibbons, Phone: (909) 890-3000, website: [inlandrc.org](http://inlandrc.org)

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